

M I D D L E E A S T A N D S O U T H A S I A R E V I E W

9 NOVEMBER 1982

Israel

Begin Testimony -- Prime Minister Menahem Begin told the commission of inquiry into the Beirut massacre that after the assassination of Bashir al-Jumayyil he suggested to the defense minister and chief of staff that the IDF should capture the main passage points in Beirut in order to prevent acts of revenge by Christians against Muslims. Nevertheless, he went on, nobody conceived that if the Phalangists went into the Palestinian camps to fight the "terrorists" they would commit a massacre. In his testimony, which was broadcast live by Jerusalem radio, Begin confirmed that during the 16 September Cabinet meeting warnings from Deputy Prime Minister David Levi and from the chief of staff about the dangers of revenge killings did not "turn on a red light" among the ministers. Begin said he learned of the decision to send the Phalangists into Sabra and Shatila at the 16 September Cabinet session, several hours after they had entered the camps. He testified that he first heard about the massacre from the BBC World Service on the afternoon of 18 September.

Gaza Settlements -- The Jewish Agency's Settlement Department will soon submit a plan to Prime Minister Begin for the establishment of 8 new settlements in the Gaza Strip and for the completion and expansion of 11 existing settlements in the area, MA'ARIV reported. Noting that the intention is to complete the plan within 5 years, MA'ARIV said it will bring tens of thousands of Jews into the Gaza Strip, where just over 1,000 Jews live at present.

PLO

Guarantees Sought From U.S. -- According to the 9 November issue of AL-AHRAM cited by MENA, the Palestinian delegation which met in Paris with Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali stated that the PLO wants the United States to guarantee that it will be an equal participant in peace negotiations, that the Arab participants in such negotiations will agree on the manner in which the PLO will be represented, that only the Palestinians speak for their cause and "that recognition must be reciprocal and simultaneous and on the basis of a U.S. guarantee with the PLO."

Military Option -- The PLO will resume its military activities "as soon as possible, at the proper time and place" the PLO representative in Saudi Arabia said in an interview with the Jidda paper AL-MADINAH cited by SPA. However, he denied that the PLO fighters are "warmongers," and asserted that if peace can be achieved through political action and if Israel withdraws, "then certainly we will not insist on the military option."

Revolutionary Council Meeting -- The Fatah Revolutionary Council reviewed, among other issues, the situation of the Palestinian forces in the Al-Biqa' region and in northern Lebanon, the contacts and visits conducted by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and other members of the Palestinian leadership as well as the "positive elements" of the Fes summit, Baghdad Voice of the PLO reported.

Lebanon

Druze gunmen of the Progressive Socialist Party fired at a Christian funeral procession in an Ash-Shuf mountain village, killing 8 persons and wounding 11 others, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Seven of the attackers were killed or wounded by the Christians, the radio said. An IDF unit subsequently arrived in the area to halt the fighting, Jerusalem radio reported. Nevertheless, further clashes erupted early on 9 November, according to Beirut radio. Meanwhile, the Command Council of the Phalangist Lebanese Forces said in a statement broadcast by the Voice of Lebanon that the Lebanese Forces will be faithful to their "pledge" to the Christians in Ash-Shuf. At a meeting of the Higher Liaison Committee of the multinational force, President Amin al-Jumayyil called

for the adoption of immediate measures to tackle the security problem in the mountains, Beirut radio reported. Earlier, Voice of Lebanon radio noted that Lebanon has officially requested Great Britain, the Netherlands, Sweden, South Korea, Austria and Belgium to participate in the multinational force.

Iran-Iraq War

Military Activities -- The "final statistics" of the third phase of the current operation include 4 Iraqi brigades destroyed, 4 other brigades partially destroyed and 13 battalions destroyed, a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio claimed. A military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio reported that Iranian forces made a new attempt to attack Iraqi units in the Maysan Governorate border area, but the offensive was completely crushed. The Iraqi Air Force continued to enjoy "full supremacy," the communique added. An Iraqi military spokesman told INA that more than 2,500 Iranians were killed in the Maysan border area on 8 November.

Mobilization -- There is no need for a general Iranian mobilization, President 'Ali Khamene'i told Tehran radio following a meeting with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni. The president explained that Khomeyni's decree on mobilization meant that all able Iranian Muslims should go to the front when there is a need. However, the military commanders have not made such a request, the president added.

Iran

In the past 6 weeks about 3,000 Iranian guards have been killed, wounded or captured in Kordestan and 400 Kurdish forces have been killed or wounded, an Iranian Kurdish leader claimed in a Paris LE MATIN interview published on 4 November. Tehran radio stated that 20 "counterrevolutionaries" were killed or wounded in Bukan district on 7 November.

PDRY

PFLO Radio -- The Aden Voice of PFLO has not been heard since 5 November. Between 27 October, when the Oman-PDRY agreement was signed, and 5 November, the program doubled its broadcast time dedicated to music and carried a series of talks on subjects such as the contradictions between capitalism and socialism, the resolutions of the Third PFLO Congress and the history of the anti-British struggle in Oman. No announcement has been monitored either on the program's suspension or on its change of broadcast time.

Relations With Saudi Arabia -- Interior Minister Lt Col Muhammad Abdullah al-Batani held talks in Jidda with Saudi National Guard Commander Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Jidda radio reported.

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OVER 1,000 CIVILIANS, USSR TROOPS DIE IN MISHAP

BK090824 Hong Kong AFP in English 0810 GMT 9 Nov 82

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 9 (AFP) -- Over 1,000 Soviet soldiers and Afghan civilians suffocated in the Salang Pass tunnel last week after a tanker truck full of petrol (gasoline) collided head on with the leading vehicle in a Soviet military convoy, a Western diplomatic source said here today.

Citing reports in Kabul, the source said that vehicles piled up inside the tunnel, the main pass through the Hindu Kush mountains.

The death toll was estimated at 1,100 at least.

The source said that the Soviets first believed the convoy was being ambushed by Moslem insurgents and blocked both ends of the tunnel.

Drivers kept engines running owing to the cold, and exhaust fumes and the fumes from the damaged tanker led to the huge death toll, with virtually everyone trapped in the tunnel suffocating.

Western diplomats in Kabul estimated that 700 Soviet soldiers died in the accident, believed to have occurred on November 2 or 3, while 200 were affected by fumes.

They estimated that from 400 up to as many as 2,000 Afghan civilians could have died in the **disaster**, with a further 200 affected.

Neither Soviet or Afghan authorities in Kabul have confirmed the report, but Kabul radio each day reads a list of people who have died, and diplomats noticed a marked increase in the days after the accident is believed to have taken place.

MESSAGES, MEETINGS MARK OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY

Karmal, Keshtmand Message

LD062248 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Nov 82

[Text] On the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, addressed and communicated the following message to the leaders of the USSR in Moscow:

Comrade Leonid I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium,

Comrade Nikolay A. Tikhonov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers,

On the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, we express our own heartfelt congratulations as well as those of the PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolutionary Council, the DRA Council of Ministers and all of the Afghan people to you, dear comrades, and through you to the Leninist CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet, the Soviet Government and to all fraternal Soviet people.

The Great October Socialist Revolution has changed the historic path of progress for our world. For the first time in history, the Soviet state -- which came into being under the leadership of the great V.I. Lenin -- has successfully put into practice the old aspirations of people for freedom, equality and social justice, and these principles have become the Soviet people's law of living.

The aspirations of the revolution and the great achievements of V.I. Lenin, leader of the world's proletariat, and his brave, militant colleagues are still inspirational examples. They enlighten the way for those who stand against tyranny and exploitation and who struggle for freedom and a better future for the masses. The present successes of the Soviet people and their achievements in creating material and spiritual values are bright examples which show that a truly popular government could achieve [word indistinct].

The first decree of the Soviet state was the decree of peace. Now, on the eve of the 65th anniversary of the Great October Revolution and the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the USSR, when the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government have put forward very important foreign policy initiatives for strengthening peace, maintaining international security and eliminating nuclear war, [words indistinct] is a significant symbol.

The Soviet Union is the foundation for peace and progress. It is always on the side of those who are struggling for freedom, independence, development and prosperity for the masses.

The fraternal and disinterested aid from the Soviet Union to the freedom-loving people of Afghanistan is the bright symbol of the internationalist foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet Government. We are profoundly grateful for this great and all-round support of Soviet friends in hard times, times when the undeclared war of imperialism and reaction is continuing against the people and revolution of Afghanistan.

Complete victory over the enemies of the revolution would allow us to concentrate all of our energy and attention on creative work and on the realization of economic and social changes envisaged by the PDPA in the interests of our people.

Taking this opportunity, I strongly believe that the fraternal and friendly relations and the fruitful and good-neighborly cooperation between the USSR and the DRA will further develop in the interests of our two people and in the interest of strengthening peace and security in the world.

Dear Comrades L.I. Brezhnev and N.A. Tikhonov, please accept once again our heartfelt best wishes for your good health and future success and for new and bright developments for the great Soviet people.

[Signed] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers

Dost Message to Gromyko

LD062304 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Nov 82

[Text] DRA Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost has sent a congratulatory message to Andrey Gromyko, USSR foreign minister, on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

The message expresses his warm fraternal and comradely congratulations on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the Great October Revolution, which coincides with the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the USSR.

The message also expresses confidence that the comradely and fraternal relations and all-round and fruitful cooperation between the DRA and the USSR will continue to develop and will be further strengthened in the interest of our toiling people and the people of the world, and of maintaining peace in Asia and the world.

Ratebzd Greetings

LD070658 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0521 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Text] Kabul, Nov 6, BAKHTAR -- Dr. Anahita Ratebzd, member of Politburo of the Central Committee of the PDPA and chairman of the Union of Societies of Friendship of the DRA With Foreign Countries has sent congratulatory telegrams to Moscow addressed to the chairman of the Union of Friendship Societies and Cultural Friendship of the Soviet Union With Foreign Countries and the chairman of the Soviet-Afghan Friendship and Cultural Society.

She has congratulated them on the occasion of the victory of Great October Revolution and through them to all the fraternal people of that country. The telegrams add that under the effect of the Great October Revolution the oppressed people of the world, among them the people of our country, broke the fetters of colonialism and that the great friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan is a blessing of the Great October Revolution.

Karmal Attends Reception

LD061740 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Nov 82

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, this evening attended a glorious reception held in the USSR Embassy in Kabul marking the 65th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

Also present at the reception were members of the PDPA Politburo and Central Committee, members of the Presidium, members of the DRA Revolutionary Council, the chairman and members of the DRA Council of Ministers, high-ranking party and government officials, ambassadors and charge d'affaires of foreign embassies in Kabul.

The reception was held in an extremely warm and cordial atmosphere.

Soviet Envoy Meeting

LD070706 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0530 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 6, BAKHTAR -- The sixty-fifth anniversary of Great October Socialist Revolution was marked in a festive manner at special functions held in the capital and major cities in Afghanistan today.

In Kabul the working people held a grand meeting on the occasion. Speaking at the meeting Nur Ahmad Nur, member of Politburo [words indistinct] colonialism, reaction and imperialism."

In his speech A.F. Tabeyev, Soviet ambassador in the DRA, thanking the party, the government and the working people of Kabul for holding this meeting, said that the DRA led by Babrak Karmal, which are bravely struggling for the building of a new society in Afghanistan, enjoys the support of all the progressive and peace-loving people.

They are not alone in this struggle, he added. The Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community helped Afghanistan in its holy struggle against imperialist aggression and would continue to do so in the future, he stressed.

ERSHAD ANNOUNCES LOCAL ELECTIONS IN 1983

BK061431 Hong Kong AFP in English 1245 GMT 6 Nov 82

[Text] Dhaka, Nov. 6 (AFP) -- Bangladeshi leader Lt. Gen. Hussain Mohammad Ershad announced here today local government elections under the new administrative reorganisation system would be held some time after August 1983.

The chief martial law administrator, Gen. Ershad, was addressing a gathering of over 10,000 on the 11th National Cooperative Day.

He explained that under the reorganisation, commissioners, to be directly elected, would head the 500 administrative units (thanas).

The units based on the local police station would be the lowest level of police and civil administration, under the new system, which is aimed at taking the administration closer to the people.

Nearly 45 thanas are going to be formally inaugurated tomorrow with much pomp and circumstance as the major administrative and reform of the seven-month old military regime of General Ershad.

Another 55 thanas are to be established next month and the remaining by August next year under a 500 million taka (about 25 million dollar) project.

The thanas are to be headed by high officials who would ultimately be replaced by elected commissioners next year.

General Ershad, in a 40-minute address, gave an outline of the achievements and objectives of his government.

He claimed he and his government would give the country "real democracy" with participation of people of different walks of life.

Gen. Ershad earlier said the constitution now under suspension would be revived with certain amendments.

He also said any constitutional arrangements must ensure the role of the armed forces in the country's future government set up.

LEADERS GREET BREZHNEV ON OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY

BK070909 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Text] President Assanuddin Chowdhury and Chief Martial Law Administrator [CMLA] Lt Gen H.M. Ershad in two separate messages have felicitated President Brezhnev of the Soviet Union on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. In their messages, the president and the CMLA expressed their confidence that the existing friendly relations between the two countries will be further strengthened in the days ahead to the mutual benefit of the two people.

BRIEFS

NORWEGIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM -- Bangladesh and Norway have finalized a 4-year program of assistance. The Norwegian assistance amounts to a total of 480 million taka annually in the form of a grant. [Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 5 Nov 82 BK]

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK LOAN -- Bangladesh is to receive \$27.2 million as an agricultural development loan from the Asian Development Bank. The fund will be utilized for the development of irrigation projects. [Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 5 Nov 82 BK]

LEADERS GREET BREZHNEV ON OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY

BK070845 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Text] The president and the prime minister have greeted the Soviet people on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the October Revolution of the Soviet Union. In their separate messages to President Brezhnev, Zail Singh and Mrs Gandhi have said that the two countries have a tradition of close and mutually beneficial cooperation in the interest of the two people and the world peace. They expressed their confidence that this friendship and cooperation will continue to grow in the years to come.

STATESMAN: CHINA BORDER DISPUTE TIE TO HISTORY

BK291208 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 24 Oct 82 p 6

[Editorial: "Prisoners of History"]

[Text] It might be cynical to attempt to relate the seemingly conciliatory tone of Mr Deng Xiaoping's reported comments to the Indian historical team now in Beijing to signs of a thaw in China's strained relations with the Soviet Union. But recent Chinese exchanges with the U.S.A. and Britain may have persuaded Mr Deng and his colleagues of the need to revive ties with traditional friends; the formal exorcism of the rhetoric of the Cultural Revolution at last month's 12th party congress, and the adoption of a new constitution which makes no reference to the thoughts of Marx, Lenin and Mao as the country's "guiding ideology" may also have induced a less rigid view of the world. But it would be pointless to pretend that there are any significant ideological elements in India's dispute with China; to that extent, Mr Deng was only reaffirming the obvious when he described the boundary question as the only outstanding issue. His further observation that there is no threat from either side in spite of this problem suggests the welcome conclusion that India and China have been able to isolate a dispute that seemed at one time to be exaggerated out of all proportion only because it was invested with quite unrealistic political connotations.

The quarrel is entirely over territory; and even that might not have arisen if both countries were not, to a great extent, still prisoners of the colonial past. The difference lies in their perceptions of history. While New Delhi necessarily sees India's evolution as a continuous process, accepting the assets as well as the liabilities of British rule, Beijing would prefer to believe that colonial pressure did not legally exist and that all engagements entered into in that era are automatically null and void. Some historical evidence has also been adduced to suggest that the Simla convention's records were tampered to favour British India at China's expense. But whatever the truth, India cannot wholly accept the Chinese version without also prompting questions about other treaties and institutions that are part of the legacy. Nor can the Chinese pretend that a certain watershed wiped the slate clean of all earlier events. These are not only academic points; but without being altogether ignored they can surely be reconciled in the light of contemporary national interests and practical considerations. The five points advanced by the Chinese delegation at the last round of official talks are not particularly helpful since they are mainly concerned with abstruse principles; but it should not be impossible to think in terms of a compromise -- possibly entailing different assessments, based on contemporary requirements of Aksai Chin and the McMahon line -- when negotiations are resumed in December.

ZIAUL HAQ GREET'S BREZHNEV ON OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY

BK070937 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has sent a message of felicitations to President Brezhnev on the 65th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution being observed today. In his message, the president said: "We attach great importance to the existing fruitful relations and friendship between Pakistan and the Soviet Union. He expressed confidence that relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union would be further strengthened and consolidated in the coming years for the mutual benefit of their peoples. In his message, the president prayed for the continued progress and prosperity of the Soviet people."

INDIAN TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR VISIT

BK071329 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Text] An Indian trade delegation has arrived in Lahore on a 10-day visit to Pakistan. The delegation will discuss with the Pakistani businessmen the prospects of increasing trade between the two countries. Indian Ambassador to Pakistan Krishna D. Sharma, who has come with this delegation, said this is a high-powered delegation. It will discuss those areas of trade which can benefit both nations. He said it is necessary for the trade between India and Pakistan to be balanced.

Delegation Leader Comments

BK071333 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Text] Leader of the visiting Indian trade delegation V.P. Punj has said President Ziaul Haq's constructive dialogue with the Indian prime minister has paved the way for fruitful cooperation between the two countries. He was speaking at the meeting of his delegation with the executives of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry today. Punj said the main objective of his delegation's visit was to explore possibilities of increased trade between the two countries for their mutual benefit.

DAWN: DELHI SUMMIT 'HOLDS PROMISE OF PROGRESS'

GF081250 Karachi DAWN in English 3 Nov 82 p 7

[Editorial: "Summit in New Delhi"]

[Text] Mrs Indira Gandhi and President Ziaul Haq have expressed satisfaction over the "heart-to-heart" talks they have had in New Delhi on Monday. The two leaders met in an atmosphere of cordiality and they expect Indo-Pakistan relations to improve in the coming months. But the real success or otherwise of the New Delhi summit will be judged in course of time if it succeeds in setting into motion a process whereby mistrust and misgivings, which have bedevilled relations between the two countries for 35 years, give way to mutual confidence. Even after the brief summit-level talks, no dramatic breakthrough or quick solutions of deep-rooted problems are to be expected. What is more important is that a framework be created within which issues and problems can be discussed and resolved without resort to extraordinary and out-of-the-routine measures. Often these methods have complicated rather than solve any of the problems.

In this context, the New Delhi meeting holds a promise of progress. The joint commission first proposed by India in January and pending ever since in spite of its acceptance in principle by both sides is to be set up now. A meeting of the officials of the two sides is to be held in December to work out the modalities of setting up this body. No details have been disclosed but it is obvious that whatever its composition, function and scope, the commission will constitute a step forward and will facilitate the normalisation of relations and negotiations on bilateral issues. Moreover, it will help bridge the communications gap which normally exists between the two neighbours and which has often allowed misunderstanding and confusion to grow to disturbing proportions.

Another important outcome of the Monday summit is that it has confirmed that the Indo-Pakistan dialogue is to continue. At the talks the foreign secretaries are to hold in December, the no-war pact proposed by Pakistan and the treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation suggested by India will no doubt be given careful consideration. Many of the provisions of the two drafts are known to be common but there are some fundamental points of difference between them concerning settlement of disputes, non-violation of boundaries and other security concerns which will obviously have to be sorted out. As efforts are made to reach common ground, the non-aggression pact being the less controversial could be taken up first. It does not militate against the treaty of friendship which goes beyond the pale of a non-aggression pact. Such a move could create the climate necessary to tackle the more difficult issues. It is, however, clear that even if negotiations proceed smoothly enough, they will still be part of a long-drawn and slow process. Since there is general agreement on the need for a dialogue, it is important that it be sustained.

MRS BHUTTO REFUSES FURTHER MEDICAL TESTS

BK071443 Hong Kong AFP in English 1429 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Text] Karachi, Nov 7 (AFP) -- Begum Nusrat Bhutto, the ailing widow of former Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who has been seeking treatment abroad for suspected cancer, has refused to undergo fresh medical tests required by a government-appointed medical board, it was reported here today.

Sources close to Begum Bhutto said her private doctors had advised her against new bronchoscopy and biopsy tests due to her gravely worsening condition.

MUSLIM LEAGUE HEAD SEEKS 'LIKE-MINDED' SUPPORT

GF311440 Karachi DAWN in English 25 Oct 82 p 12

[Text] Lahore, Oct 24 -- The President Pakistan Muslim League [PML] (defunct) Pir Sahib Pagara has said that the round-table conference is being convened to achieve the support of the like-minded parties to safeguard the remaining Pakistan. He was addressing a reception hosted in his honor by the defunct Jamiat ul Ulema Pakistan [JUP], Punjab, here today.

He said that the JUP and PML were seeking support of those parties which believed in the law of the land and ethical principles and not of those which wanted confrontation. Both JUP and PML wanted holding of general elections in order to resolve the problems being faced by the country. The elections should bear positive results for the nation, he observed.

Pir Sahib said that the supporters of the two ideologies -- Jama'at-e-Islami[JI] and Pakistan Peoples Party were getting together and both were being equipped with arms. The workers of the two parties, that is, JUP and PML should keep themselves aloof from such groupings, in order to rule in future. He said the Jama'at-e-Islami itself was a stunt. The founder of JI, late Maulana Maudoodi, did not recognise Pakistan, he said, adding how could Maulana Maudoodi's followers safeguard Pakistan and the ideology of Pakistan.

PAPER CAUTIONS AGAINST 'RISING TIDE OF UNREST'

BK010258 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 23 Oct 82 p 6

[A.T. Chaudhri article from Lahore: "Rising Tide of Unrest"]

[Text] In his recent marathon address to the nominated Majlis-i-Shoors, President Zia ruled out early elections, formation of a national government and even a round-table with the politicians to end the deadlock between the government and the leaders of the defunct political parties.

Undaunted by the new wave of terrorism, which apparently has political overtones, the fresh stirrings in the nine-party Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) and the unrest among the Bar Associations which have launched a nationwide struggle for civil liberties, fundamental rights and independence of the judiciary, the president declared that he would not yield to pressures to give up enforcement of the Islamic principles. He may not be an elected leader but he will not step down until his avowed mission -- the Islamisation of policy -- was completed, in keeping with the "original inspiration" of Pakistan.

On the eve of this 105-minute impassioned address, political pundits had speculated that Gen Zia might make some overtures to the politicians to fill the political vacuum and meet the challenge of terrorists who are said to be under the control of some external forces and internal "influential" elements.

There was also speculation that before embarking on his diplomatic odyssey to the United States, the president might deem it prudent to reiterate his off-repeated commitment to the democratisation of national polity or the "civilian-isation" of the martial law regime. But he has opted for the "status quo" and implicitly told his antagonists that he is firmly in the saddle and will carry on with his nominees in the Majlis.

He has also expressed his resolve to defend and reinforce the civil service; provide more teeth for the security hounds and expand the federal Cabinet and provincial ministers to confront the problems facing the nation. The major problems he touched upon are: combating the terrorists; keeping a tight lid on the Pandora's box of politics; eliminating the rampant social evils, notably corruption; giving a facelift to the weak economy through the instrument of the sixth five-year plan now on the anvil; and last but not least, ushering in an Islamic system, though it is a time-consuming -- rather unending -- process.

On all these issues, independent political analysts hold divergent views. The challenge of terrorism, it is contended, cannot be effectively met by the creation of local committees, distributing arms among the citizens, provision of modern equipment to the law-enforcing agencies, or the promulgation of drastic laws, such as the Martial Law Regulation (MLR) No 53, which prescribes death penalty for terrorist suspects and their accomplices. (MLR 53 authorizes military courts to presume, on the basis of police investigation alone, that the accused has committed the offence he is charged with "unless the contrary is proved by him.")

Though security experts and "terrorologists" have lately been trying to downgrade the incidence of terrorism, blaming it on some thrill-seeking scions of elitist families, competent observers say that Pakistan is fast becoming a victim of international terrorism. In its latest issue, an article in the "READER'S DIGEST" bluntly accused the Soviets of creating a \$700,000 fund to promote terrorist activity across the Durand Line. As the journal put it, "Moscow seeks to destabilise his (Zia's) regime by open pressure and subversion...." Stray but unconfirmed reports in a section of the press made out that a group of saboteurs recently hauled up near Sialkot, while trying to cross the border, had "confessed" that they had "sanctuaries" in India.

Significantly, President Zia himself observed in his Majlis speech that the Pakistanis, like the Palestinians, are now being subjected to international terrorism by forces inimical to Islam and that their object here and elsewhere is to block and paralyse Islamic resurgence. If that is so, the dissidents argue, the people should not be treated as dormant nobodies but associated with the governance of state to confront the new monster of terrorism. Otherwise, the terrorists may, in course of time, neutralise large groups and forces and strike at the heart of the state.

Those at the helm remain averse to reviving the political process in any form. Thus, they not only decried the recent all-Pakistan lawyers' convention, but hauled up a couple of luminaries and registered cases against others for using the bar council platform for making political speeches. This convention in the Lahore high court building was attended by some 1,500 lawyers from all over the country, who adopted a declaration and several strongly-worded resolutions which are to be implemented by a 50-man committee.

The demands of lawyers, which were blacked out by the TV, radio and the trust papers are: restoration of the authority of the judiciary since it is the ultimate arbiter of civil rights and liberties; withdrawal of the Provisional Constitution Order of 1981 which restricts the scope of judicial review and has done "incalculable damage" to the enforcement of the rights of citizens; the withdrawal of recent amendments in the legal practitioners act and those provisions in the Bar Council Act which stop Bar Associations and councils from performing their moral, legal and constitutional duties that are "dubbed as political activities"; the repeal of the Qazi Courts Ordinance which further curtails the jurisdiction of the judiciary and deprives the citizens of their right to seek redress of grievances; the restoration of the 1973 Constitution which can bring the existing laws in conformity with the Islamic injunctions; the release of political detainees, including lawyers and journalists; and the removal of curbs on the press and on the freedom of movement within the country.

The convention also expressed concern, as major political parties have done, over the government's reluctance to grant permission to the chairman of PPP [Pakistan Peoples Party], Begum Nusrat Bhutto, to proceed abroad for medical treatment. (She has been asked to appear before a medical board.) The lawyers have in desperation decided to go on a nationwide token strike in mid-October to highlight the issue at stake and mobilise public opinion for the people's democratic urges.

The question currently being asked by political observers is whether the government will take serious note of: the new stirrings in the community of lawyers, politicians and students and begin worrying over the growing unrest which has begun to seek new forms of expression -- for example, terrorism? The consensus seems to be that unless the energies of the vocal segments of society are legitimised through a smooth and painless transition from authoritarianism to civilian rule, it would be difficult to stem the new and rising tide of unrest sweeping Pakistan.

SRI LANKAPARLIAMENT AMENDS CONSTITUTION TO EXTEND TERM

BK051135 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Nov 82

[Text] Parliament in a pre-dawn vote approved the fourth amendment to the Constitution which seeks to extend the life of the present parliament up to August the 4th, 1984 by a majority of 138 votes. The passage of this bill enables a referendum to be held to obtain the people's mandate for this purpose. The vote taken at the end of a lengthy debate lasting almost 10 and 1/2 hours with 142 in favor of the bill with 4 against. A notable feature was that Sri Lanka Freedom Party [SLFP] MP's (Maitripala Senanayake Madbacha) and (Hanimisha), third MP, Colombo Center, voted with the government in favor of the bill. The Tamil United Liberation Front MP's were not present in the chambers when voting took place. (Lakshman Jayakudi), MP, (Partanagalla), (Anand Dassanaikie) MP for Kotmale and Anura Bandaranaike, second MP for Nuwara, Eliya Maskeliya from the SLFP and (Sarapotgama) of the Communist Party voted against the bill.

Concluding the debate, Prime Minister R. Premadasa said that they were all agreed that the new amendment should have the people's approval. Therefore, he said, the people's mandate will be obtained for this exercise and opportunity will be provided for all officially recognized political parties to express their views through the Roopavahini [television] and the Sri Lankan Broadcasting Corporation. The prime minister however expressed optimism that whatever views were put forward by the opposition, a referendum will be approved by a larger majority than what the government obtained at the recent election.

Referendum Set for 22 Dec

BK071507 Hong Kong AFP in English 1610 GMT 6 Nov 82

[Text] Colombo, Nov 6 (AFP) -- Sri Lankans will vote on the referendum on December 22 to extend parliament's life by six years corresponding to President Jayawardene's newly-elected term, reliable sources said.

The sources said Mr Jayawardene indicated the date at a meeting of the district ministers held today to prepare for the country's first referendum.

Parliament approved a government bill seeking to conduct the referendum Friday.

BRIEFS

NORWEGIAN AID -- Two days of detailed discussions for the allocation of Norwegian aid to Sri Lanka in 1983 concluded in the Ministry of Finance and Planning in Colombo on 29 October. Norway will make a sum of 65 million Norwegian krone available for a variety of projects in this period. A similar sum in assistance will be made available every year after 1986. [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Oct 82 BK]

PRIME MINISTER'S STATE OF NATION SPEECH 7 NOV

GF081618 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi speech on state of the nation in Tehran on 7 November -- recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. If the people of the towns had but believed and feared God, we could indeed have opened to them all kinds of blessings from heaven and earth. [Koranic verse]

Greetings and hail the leader of the revolution, leader of the oppressed of the world; greetings to you the sacrificing and martyr-nurturing nation:

During the Cabinet meetings held over the past year, all governors general have participated. In the past few months, three ministers have been put in charge of each one of the oppressed provinces. During the past year, we have had many meetings with the participation of the esteemed president who chaired these meetings. The coordination present in this respect is, in my opinion, one of the miracles of the revolution. We consider this natural.

I also must point out the cohesion that exists between the government and the Majlis since I consider mentioning this as beneficial. The government believes that the Majlis is the concentration of the nation and it oversees all issues. Naturally, the government pays attention to the guidance issued by the Majlis, the bills passed there and the issues raised.

On the other hand, the Majlis understands administrative problems very well and in many cases helps the government to smoothly carry out its duties.

There is a great deal of agreement among the Cabinet on social, political and economic issues. Naturally, there is an occasional difference of opinion on how some issues should be tackled. This in itself makes it possible to look at an issue from many varied angles, which is one of the strong points of the present Cabinet since it is formed from select, good people who are part of the revolution. Naturally, the sharp and creative minds of these brothers in tackling the issues from various angles creates a situation in the Cabinet where decisions that are made are all embracing, considering the sincerity of the entire Cabinet.

Naturally, the government has a heavy burden on its shoulders. The entire nation understands and realizes this. I give you an example of such problems. This doesn't mean that such problems have affected the government since we believe, and in the scope of the revolution, you, the great nation, have tested the fact that each burden and calamity has made our nation stronger, more experienced and more (?united). The government is not separate from the nation.

Doubtlessly, all of you, the great nation, know that we have 1.5 million war refugees. Add to this 1.5 million Afghan refugees, over 100,000 Iraqi refugees expelled from that country and 45,000 Iraqi POW's. This is a heavy burden. To find them jobs, look (?after them), look after their political, economic and security needs are all a heavy burden that naturally is shouldered by the government.

The cost of the war, it is well-known and clear, causes inflation. I was looking at this year's budget a few days ago. The budget allocated for the war is almost exactly the figure for the budget deficit. We know that usually budget deficits cause inflation in our society and all other societies. It makes no difference.

Naturally, the government cannot escape this issue since we feel our honor, being, independence, our future self-sufficiency, our becoming a model for the entire world and the human pride of our nation before the superpowers are all related to this war. The government naturally follows the slogan of you, the great nation, who chants "War, war until victory" and accepts these problems, trying to find solutions for them. The reason I am raising this issue here for you, the great nation, is for us to realize clearly the roots of the problems which occasionally show themselves in society. This is because if we do not look at the basic causes, then our solutions surely will not be very successful.

In general, the government's (?facilities) are at the disposal of the fronts. For example, heavy machinery such as loaders, bulldozers and graders during the past year have been collected from around the country and put at the disposal of the forces whenever they have asked for them. Dispatching these naturally causes a (?knot) in other projects like road construction or development of oppressed regions where all such machinery are needed. However, we are certain that the development of such oppressed regions is not possible without independence and basic confrontation with international oppression.

Therefore, such investments are long-term investments. When we put the facilities at the disposal of the fronts -- true, it puts pressure on the government especially at this point in time when there is a period of growth and a blossoming of the popular beliefs causing hope about looking after the oppressed -- we are also under pressure to look at this area or another place that needs a rural road or some other part requiring electrification and so on. We also know that work done in this respect is not comparable to what was done during the former regime. One of the causes of pride for the regime of the Islamic Republic is its achievements in road construction or supply of power to villages. However, we still put a great many facilities at the disposal of the fronts. We will never refuse a request from the fronts for facilities and will answer such calls immediately without really discussing them in the mass media.

We therefore give priority to the issue of war both in the long and short terms. It has brought us good tidings and has caused original and noble moves in our society. On the other hand, it also creates pressures. However, the government tries to make the best use of its facilities for this reason. Another point that you dear nation, you sisters and brothers, must be informed about -- by informing you the burden of the government will be lessened -- is that naturally when we are at war, the foreign currency at our disposal obtained through the sale of our oil, has to be partly allocated to the war budget. Such currency could purchase raw materials or increase the supply of some goods in the market, but it is used for our struggle against the Saddam regime.

As I mentioned, this is a long-term investment for us, a spiritual investment, something which has precipitated from our philosophy and which is not surprising. Even though the power of the faith of our nation has no parallel, with respect to the war, such things have always existed. Thus, such an issue puts pressure on the government. In order to mention the work of our brother officials, since naturally we want to praise their efforts, I should like to say that, so far, we have heard, Iraq has borrowed \$30 billion from reactionary countries. A reliable Western news agency -- apparently Associated Press -- recently reported that the figure is around \$45 billion. Just imagine, our country, you, the great nation, just because of your "neither East nor West" slogan and your Islamic pride against international oppression has not even borrowed one rial, one cent, from either the East or the West. You stood on your own feet during the economic embargo and this has caused us to create the bases in the country now whereupon we are approaching self-sufficiency. This is a very important issue.

I also consider it beneficial to point out the problem of the ports since it is also one of the problems that the government is seriously tackling because the recognition of such issues can be helpful and beneficial to our great nation to a large extent. The reason we do not continuously talk about such issues is because the government daily is, in fact, confronting new issues of this nature and also has powerful tools at its disposal to confront such issues and solve them. With the power the government obtains from you, the great nation, the great national morale naturally reduces such issues to minimal importance. And as you observe, they have not affected our daily life or the continued victories in the war.

The ports issue is part of the issue of our import channels and it plays a large role in this respect. We have lost the port of Khorramshahr. The Imam port cannot be used very effectively. It has 33 docks and naturally is vitally important to our country and is one of those sensitive areas linked to the rail lines. Naturally, its continued operation is vitally important to our country to get goods at the right time. Iraq thought that by threatening such areas, destroying them and stopping our ships from coming close to these areas, it could influence us or possibly immobilize us. On the basis of the miracle I pointed out and due to your efforts, the hezbollahi nation, we have been able to use Bandar 'Abbas extensively. However, we do have some bottlenecks, that is to say, we don't have the same discipline we would have if we were using two or three ports. There may be ships coming to our waters loaded with goods very essential to the country but they have to wait in line and be unloaded gradually. We have a problem in that there is a shortage of trucks, a problem of spare parts. Naturally, such things cause some form of a (?knot) in some sectors. I consider it beneficial to point out one such case so that we can see the nature of the problem and then I will tell you about our responsive measures and the level of progress in terms of the management of our ports and our machinery as a result of such issues.

Around 1 1/2 or 2 months ago, we were informed that the raw materials used to make vegetable oil in our factories -- we, of course, also use our own oil-bearing grains -- cannot be unloaded due to the closure of Bandar-e Imam. We have no storage facility in Bandar 'Abbas and you know the role of vegetable oil in the daily life of our people. So we received repeated reports on the depletion of the level of reserves. We were, of course, certain that when the reserves were finished and when we explained the problem to the people, everyone would accept it. Naturally, we expected the same attitude of you, the great nation, that was displayed at the start of the war when you fasted so that the war could continue despite an economic embargo. With such belief and with this faith in you, the great nation -- this causes delight and gives power to the responsible hezbollahi officials in the ports, among our laborers and all those involved with this issue -- which resulted in the construction of new storage facilities in Bandar 'Abbas and solution to the problem.

We also can point to other problems caused by the economic embargo which, as we have said, have resulted in increased efficiency in our various administrative units. I mentioned one in an interview concerning our relations with Japan. Currently, our relations with Japan have become rather healthy. However, it is among one of the very interesting actions of the government in the past year. When our oil revenues had reached their lowest level, we naturally looked for countries -- our foreign policy and the actions of the Oil Ministry had been stepped up in this respect....

The Commerce Ministry first researched the fact that around 25 percent of our industrial imports are from Japan. Japanese companies have an office in Iran. They contact our factories and various departments, sell their goods, obtain dollars and then go to our enemies, countries that have no friendly ties with us, and buy oil. At the time, when their daily oil demand was 4 million barrels, they were not buying a drop of oil from our country. This was an interesting and an emotional issue for us. We immediately formed a committee called "Committee for Trade With Japan." As I mentioned in that interview, we then expanded this issue and are using this experience in our relations with other countries. We evaluated the strategic importance of the goods we were importing from Japan. We evaluated how much our industry would suffer if we went to the Japanese and said that your relations with us are unjust and we, as an independent country, cannot continue such unjust relations since our nation would not be able to accept this, and they resisted us.

Very interesting and encouraging to us was that when we talked to our own industry and with various sectors, everyone said: "There is no problem, you stick to this argument and we will resist, create alternative markets and find our goods in other markets and should that prove impossible, we will withstand the shortages with the (?help of) the forces faithful to the revolution."

So we told the Japanese that it is not possible for us to import 25 percent of our goods from their country when their daily demand is 4 million barrels a day and they did not buy one drop from us. This does not agree with the "neither East nor West" policy of our Islamic Republic. (?Our nation cannot support this) and we want a just relationship. At first they considered it a joke. Since they surely had more statistics than us, they thought we could not resist. They always have made the mistake of believing that our system can be defeated with economic and material tools.

This is an assumption of today's material world but our nation has conquered all this. So we told them no. We will not work this way and told all our factories and industries that none is allowed to open credit accounts or import one item from Japan. Naturally, as I said at the beginning, they did not take us seriously and started to talk to various sectors. To whomever they talked, they were referred to the Committee for Trade With Japan. When they went to the committee they were faced with the logic of "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours." They were told that you sell us so much goods and get paid in dollars and then in turn you buy your oil from other sources. We cannot accept this.

After some time, I think around 3 months, they realized our seriousness and began to deal with us as an equal power, a country that believes in its independence and doesn't surrender to material and economic force, a country that relies on an infinite power within itself, a country that is ready to withstand all crisis and not lose its independence.

We now have a healthy relationship with them. It is an equal two-way relationship. We work on the basis of the interests of our nation and they, on the basis of theirs. This is a state of equilibrium and we have reached a balance. Naturally, such a policy is applied to all countries. If it is not applied to some at present, it will be.

Last year, the oppressive powers, the large powers, looked at the hypocrites as an alternative. They thought that our system was collapsing and that this organization could be a good servant for the United States and other powers and they were strengthening it, supporting it and relying on it. Now the same powers are in complete isolation. A day does not pass without their receiving another blow. Naturally, they cause some danger with their crazy acts; they do us some harm. However, none of this can lessen the all-embracing power of our revolution. On the contrary, each of these acts results in their further destruction. No one now looks at them as a power, only as a criminal and diminishing force.

You, the great nation, heard the interview of that miserable southern feudalism [Khosrow Qashqa'i] or saw it on television. We can say that with the destruction of feudalism in the south, which can be considered almost completed with the annihilation of this individual, we no longer face such an issue across the country. We can feel this when we go to the oppressed areas or all parts of the country and see the good and clear results of this issue. Instead of the harsh rule of such types, we now have around 20,000 Islamic societies in the villages whose representatives recently were seen by the imam.

Our government generals' management abilities are on the rise. The government strongly supports its political representatives. I take this opportunity to raise the point for you, sisters and brothers, this great nation, that our governor general brothers across the country are official representatives of the government chosen after interviews and investigations by the Cabinet and put forward by the respected interior minister. They are approved and appointed and they are, in fact, the complete representative of the government in the provinces. Therefore, it is necessary, this also has a religious aspect, for our revolutionary organizations, all organizations and the people to look at them from this point of view so we gradually can implement management and the political leadership of the system in all provinces. As far as our information is concerned, this is a fact and coordination among various organizations and the government increases daily.

In foreign policy, we were dynamic during last year. I only mention one example to show you, the great nation, the efficiency of one administrative branch of the government, which is surely a result of the sacrifice of this great nation and your continuous presence on the scene without which we would have been unable to do anything in this respect.

You heard about the issue of the nonaligned conference in Baghdad. This was a great victory for our nation. The Saddam regime propagated for years about holding the conference there and becoming the chairman of the conference and the movement with its large number membership. It had built many buildings, conference halls and hotels and had spent billions of dollars for them and for creating a special security system and so on. When Khuninshahr was liberated by our brave fighters, the mortal blow was dealt by our fighters, then the government, the Foreign Ministry, began its activities. In connection with the Nonaligned Movement alone, we had 400 diplomatic contacts and sent around 50 delegations abroad with messages, to hold negotiations and explain our point of view. Ten of these important political meetings were by our own foreign minister. Large numbers of messages issued by the respected president were sent to the heads of states. This shows the impetus in one part of the administrative branch.

I will take a brief look at agriculture and industry before going on to discuss the problems of society. Our agriculture was transformed during the last year. This year we managed to buy 200,000 tons more wheat from the farmers, which is a high figure. This becomes important when you note that our petrochemical factories, those which make pesticides, are out of commission. Most of them are in the south and are in danger of being bombed or something has happened to them. Naturally, all facilities that can aid the increase of agricultural production are dependent on fertilizers, insecticides, agricultural services and credit -- about all of which extensive work has been done. Our cotton production, following a reduction of production after the revolution -- this has many reasons such as ownership and other matters that would take too long to discuss -- has been transferred during the past year. Our cotton production is considerably higher than last year and you have read the statistics in the papers.

With respect to industry, in the second half of 1981 and first half of 1982, large work-shops have had a 12.1 percent increase in production. I must say that only a small number of our factories are operational but we see that every day the percentage goes higher and sometimes exceeds the nominal 100 percent figure.

During the past year, around 2,800 basic agreements concerning the construction of industrial factories have been signed, which is a 20 percent increase compared to last year. It is interesting that the capital forecasted for these industries is three times the past figure and stands at nearly 50 billion rials compared to last year's 15 billion rials. This shows there is an extensive sense of security about investment in the country.

I would like to mention to the venom injectors who are trying to pretend that such security does not exist, that we talk with figures, facts and statistics. If there was no security, if legal capital was not respected in the Islamic Republic and a movement did not exist in this respect, we would have had reduced investments. In fact, we have a noticeable increase.

The last thing I want to point out is the level of prices, what is currently going on in our society under the terms of inflation, high prices and overcharging. I will only briefly discuss this and point out just a few things. One is the question of the average inflation rate. There has been a great deal of discussion on the subject, which I will repeat because it can be of great benefit. When we state the rate of inflation as 16, 20, 50 percent or any other figure or when we say that it has gone down compared with last year, this does not mean that prices are not going up. It means that the acceleration in the increase of prices has lessened and the inflation rate has gone down.

Secondly, we only take the average price rise. Let's say that there is a shortage of tumeric and the price reaches 100 tumans a sir [75 grams]. What sort of consumption percentage rate does it have in a family? On the other hand, if the price of meat which forms around 27 percent of the food intake of a family in terms of costs in the cities goes up a little, let's say 4 or 5 tumans, it is immediately reflected in the inflation rate.

In terms of high prices and inflation, I receive daily statistics on these, where we feel the problems of the people -- some goods are sold at 4 or 5 times their value by a group of hoarders and economic terrorists. There are problems in this respect and we receive the news....

There is continued agitation in this respect as well, no doubt about it. However, I have to point out that there are two reasons for the high prices. One is a natural reason based on the price of the war, the inflation created by the war and the fact that there is too much money available to the people. This is a very important point which we can fight in the long term and is a reality in our society. These are fundamental problems. However, the issue does not end here. We have some unnatural aspects. These are profiteering, problems with distribution channels and such things. The government is doing a great deal in this respect.

The government has started work in this field in order to eliminate the small number of these profiteers hoping to be successful not only with respect to essential and strategic goods, but also other goods and to make distribution in the society easier, to reduce demand and to fix prices. There have been sessions, held for the past few weeks, at the prime minister's office with the participation of a number of ministers including the respected commerce and industry ministers as well as the officials in charge of the guild's court and occasional participation by our big brother Musavi-Ardabili. We discuss distribution and some solutions are being reached that gradually will take effect.

Our great nation already may have noticed some relief in the cases of goods such as milk, cement, fuel and a little in the case of meat. We have some plans for meat which, God willing, will increase in amount and will reach the people in a better way and so on.

In closing, I should like to say that we do have some shortages in the country caused by the war. We cannot escape the natural reasons causing these. We have to change these into a springboard for our movement. The government may be able to fill the markets with goods at the price of the destruction of our rural life, industry, lack of growth in heavy industry and by sacrificing agriculture in order to saturate the market and cause a false sense of well-being in the society. However, would our nation agree to this now or in the future?

KHAMENE'I COMMENTS ON U.S., IRAQ, ELECTIONS

LD082150 Tehran IRNA in English 2011 GMT 8 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov 8, IRNA -- The president of the Islamic Republic today reiterated that there could be no relations with the U.S. in the foreseeable future. He said that the U.S. had done many damages to the Iranian Muslim people and therefore it was difficult to imagine that Iran would have good relations with that country in the near future.

Speaking at a press conference here tonight, also attended by foreign reporters, he said that the Islamic forces would do anything in order to gain their rights from Iraq. He said that **Iraqi president, Saddam Husayn**, should be treated as a war criminal and therefore any development in Iraq which would not secure the Islamic Republic's conditions for ending the war, could not be accepted.

He said that Iran's conditions included the punishment of Saddam and the payment of an estimated amount of 150 billion dollars as war reparations.

The president said that the Islamic forces had reached the Iraqi town of At-Tib and they would advance towards Baghdad if it was necessary.

Concerning Imam Khomeyni's recent fatwa (religious decree) that all able Iranian Muslims should go to the front, Khamene'i said that the foreign reporters had misunderstood imam's call. He explained that what the fatwa meant was that the people should go to the front only if they were needed and he added that today there was no need for a public mobilisation concerning the war.

The president said that the current situation of the Iraqi Army was not too good since about 40 to 50 thousand Iraqi POWs were guests of the Islamic Republic, more numbers had been killed or wounded, and some had been executed by Saddam so there was not much left of the Iraqi Army.

Questioned about the young volunteers fighting in the battlefields, he said that the young fighters were not forced to go to the front but they themselves urged to be allowed to fight. Nevertheless he said that there was a certain age limit as well.

Khameni'i said that the Islamic Republic's stance would not [words indistinct] towards those countries who were helping Iraq.

On the position of Iran in the Non-aligned Movement, the president said that Iran played an effective role in this concern and would actively participate in the forthcoming summit meeting in New Delhi.

The president also said that he would be a candidate for the Council of Experts which is given the task of electing a leader or a leadership council. The elections for the Council of Experts has been scheduled for December tenth.

More on News Conference

LD091104 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Nov 82

[Excerpts] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and head of the Supreme Defense Council, last night took part in a news conference with local and foreign correspondents. He answered questions about the war, foreign policy, inflation, activities of political parties and the results of the efforts of Mir-Hoseyn Musavi's 1-year-old government.

First, a Japanese correspondent asked: Now, 4 years after the Islamic revolution, are you any closer to the slogan of Independence, freedom and the Islamic Republic? Khamene'i answered: You have witnessed the signs of our independence and search for freedom on the warfronts. The blows we are suffering from the superpowers are all because of our endeavors to seek freedom and independence. However, we will continue to follow this path and we already have achieved successes.

On the behavior of Arab countries toward the Islamic Republic of Iran, Khamene'i said: Arab countries have not all treated us in the same way. Some of them have been friendly and sincere toward us and some have been indifferent. America's allies and countries under American influence have been hostile to us. Our behavior toward this third group will not be friendly. He also described relations between Iran and Libya as excellent and gave the reason as similarity in action and thought in many political areas.

Referring to the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the next summit conference of the nonaligned countries in New Delhi, the president said: We will have an active presence at this conference. We hope to be able to adopt the necessary stand in the face of the domineering attitude of the world superpowers by being present at the conference and by our active participation. He added: We expect this conference and the Nonaligned Movement to act according to its founding principles and bear these principles in mind.

Pointing to the war imposed by Iraq on Iran, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i said: This issue should not create a division in the Nonaligned Movement. The adoption of just stands by the countries of this movement concerning the war imposed by Iraq against Iran can contribute more strength and unity to the Nonaligned Movement.

Commenting on the possibility of resuming relations with America, the president said: I cannot see any signs of this in the political future of Iran. America has dealt many blows to this nation and revolution and it is difficult to imagine a time when Iran and America can have good relations.

In this interview, Khamene'i announced his candidacy for membership in the Council of Experts and referred to the silence or false statements made by many news agencies concerning our country's affairs.

PRESIDENT REPORTS ON AUDIENCE WITH KHOMEYNI

LD081146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Nov 82

[Excerpts] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i this morning was received by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the meeting, the president sought the imam's directives on sending various groups of people, especially government employees and teachers, to the fronts. At the end of the meeting, the president talked to our correspondent about the issues raised with the imam of the nation and the stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to the imposed war:

[Begin recording] [Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I asked for an audience with the imam to ask for his directives with regards to the enthusiasm and interest shown by the people and government employees. I asked whether these people should be allowed to go to the fronts and whether there is need for government employees and others to go to the fronts.

The imam said his message did not mean that everyone should go to the fronts. It meant that when there is a need, and there is a need on the frontline for additional personnel, and this need is communicated to the public by military commanders then, according to the decree, it is necessary to meet this need by sending ordinary people regardless of their jobs. At present, the commanders have not made such a request and there is no need for such a huge force on that level. Therefore, government employees and other organizations should continue working at their jobs. There presently is no need for them to be sent to the fronts. Fortunately, from the beginning of the war up to now, there has been no need for such a general mobilization and we hope there will be no need to mobilize everyone in the future. If such a situation arises, then everyone, in whatever job, should leave for the fronts.

[Question] In view of the recent victories [words indistinct] what is the Islamic Republic of Iran's stand in connection with the continuation of war?

[Answer] Our stand has not changed at all. We are determined to continue the war until the just rights of the revolutionary nation are restored. We will make the enemy heed the rightful utterance of a nation [words indistinct]. We will (?fight) the Iraqi regime until our rights are restored and we will bring the enemy to its knees, God willing.
[end recording]

IRNA REPORTS KHAMENE'I 7 NOVEMBER ADDRESS

LD081156 Tehran IRNA in English 1001 GMT 8 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8 (IRNA) -- Iran's situation in the Iraqi imposed war is splendid due to the nation's sacrifices, announced President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i on Sunday.

The president in his televised address to the nation said the Islamic Republic has been successful in pursuing the problem of splinter groups.

Referring to the abortive U.S. plot in portraying the war as a war between Iran and the Arabs, the president stressed once again on [as received] Iranian terms for ending the war, one of which was the punishment to the aggressor Iraqi regime, headed [words indistinct].

He added that an imposed (?peace) was no different to an imposed war and that Iran deemed superpowers wiser than that to entangle themselves in the war.

Condemning Jordanian King Husayn and his U.S.-sponsored new role in "solving the Palestinian problem," the president said the only solution to that was the return of the Palestinians to their own land and pointed out that the murderer of the Palestinians in 1970 Black September could not solve their problem. (The 1970 Black September was a catastrophe in which King Husayn of Jordan massacred several thousands of Palestinians). He stressed that any U.S.-sponsored plan was not a plan for the Palestinians.

Referring to people's letters and phone calls referred to his office, he said Iran had acted remarkably well in distributing essential foods and in fulfillment of peoples' needs after 25 months of fighting with the Iraqi aggressor regime and also being surrounded by a variety of economic and political sanctions.

Comparing the present situation in Iran with that of the World War II in which major scarcity of foods and essential goods was recorded, the president said the Islamic Republic's programs for an increase in agricultural and other productions had been outstanding.

He said despite the war, some 80 percent of the Iranian budget has been spent on rehabilitation and development projects all over the country, during the first five months of the Iranian year started on March 21st, 1982, which meant an increase of 27 percent compared to the previous year.

He said the distribution of fertiliser among farmers during the last Iranian year was increased by 76 percent compared to the figures of five years ago when the shah's regime was thriving.

The wheat seeds given to farmers had been doubled in the same period, added the president. He said the number of tractors given to farmers had also a record of an increase of 52 percent. He noted that the Iranian achievements were made while it was engaged in an imposed war and all its ports were not working.

He added that the reconstruction jihad had built some 20,240 kms of road in Iran which was separate from works done by the Roads and Transportation Ministry.

He said Iran had made so many outstanding progresses in defense and other branches of industry that the U.S. and the West would be shocked by knowing about them.

He declared that the Iranian nation has been able in operating industries formerly in the hands of foreigners prior to the Islamic revolution, including a section in Tehran's oil refinery with a capacity of 70,000 tons a day which will be ready for use by next April.

The recent religious decree (fatwa) by Imam Khomeyni, the president added, which placed going to the fronts and fighting the Iraqi aggressor regime at the top of the priority list, had created such incredible enthusiasm among Iranians that countless people had volunteered to go to the fronts including many state officials.

Speaking on the counterrevolution [words indistinct] the Pirandasht [spelling as received] -- Sar Dasht road in the western Iran which was a backbone to the counterrevolution, was completely liberated and that the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) and the police were systematically pursuing the saboteurs.

Speaking on the U.S. plots against Iran, the president (?stated) the U.S. aimed at presenting Iran as the Arabs' enemy rather than the Zionist regime, but it has been a failure in that regard.

He said that certain Arab countries at times condemned Iraq and the U.S. plots in (?the) region while other Arab leaders stayed silent.

Even in the face of the Zionist regime's crimes, Khamene'i continued, those Arab leaders only mentioned the name "Israel" as an enemy to the Arabs, not because they firmly believed in it, but because they were afraid of their subjects.

He said As-Sadat's evident announcement that he had nothing against the (?Zionist) regime gave him that fate and that the rest of the Arab leaders should learn from As-Sadat's case.

In conclusion, the president said all Muslims support the Islamic revolution while they detest the Zionist regime, and that the U.S. plots to help Iraq and its supporters have been defused with the help of Allah.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE NO 10 DETAILS IRAQI LOSSES

LD081744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Nov 82

[Communique No 10 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

In continuation of the third phase of the Moharram operation, the forces of Islam, during last night's operation, destroyed 20 vehicles and 10 tanks and personnel carriers and captured intact large quantities of ammunition, equipment and light and heavy weapons of the defeated Iraqi forces. The number of enemy killed or wounded during this operation exceeded 100. Thus, since the start of the Moharram operation, enemy casualties exceed 6,100.

Another group of deceived Saddamists were captured during last night's operation. A number of stores, as well as vehicles, of the aggressive Ba'thist forces, containing ammunition, were set ablaze and destroyed.

The final statistics of the third phase of Operation Moharram are:

The 42d Armored Brigade, comprising nine battalions, destroyed.
The 24th Mechanized Brigade and the 60th Armored Brigade were destroyed.
The 9th, 10th and 11th (?Battalions) and the 17th Armored Brigade were destroyed.
The 74th Infantry Brigade was 50 percent destroyed,
The 108th (?Border) Brigade was 30 percent destroyed.
The Saddam Tank Battalion was 80 percent destroyed.
The (As-Sahnan) Tank Battalion was destroyed.
The (Al-Bakr) Battalion was 20 percent destroyed.

Other information on the operations will be brought to the attention of the brave and martyr-nurturing umma' in future communiques.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,113

LD081745 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Nov 82

[Communique No 1,113 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The victorious fighters of Islam and the epic-making conquerors of the Moharram operations, who have undertaken lightning and coordinated attacks under the codename O Zaynab, continue their holy battle against Saddam under the inspiration of the special grace of God and the holy name of the lady of Karbala' and 'Ashura, the great Zaynab, may God's blessings be upon her. Having carried out the third phase of the Moharram operations, our brave forces, enjoying complete superiority over the feeble enemy, have set up defensive positions and are attacking the mercenary forces of Saddam in the frontlines of the battle.

The heroic pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Airborne Division are providing confident support to the operations of the infantry units and are assisting their victorious brothers in their remarkable activities.

Exchanges of fire continued yesterday in the operational zones in the west. The forces of Islam smashed the positions and fortifications of the forces of Saddam on the fronts in this region and inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the enemy.

In the Muslim ibn 'Aqil operational zone, the fire leveled by our fighters stopped the enemy's engineering activities. An ammunition dump and a number of bunkers of the Iraqi forces also were destroyed and a number of the mercenary forces were killed.

Abadan yesterday came under heavy weapons fire. A number of houses were set on fire by mortar shells. During the past 24 hours, Iraqi intrusions into the airspace of the border areas in the south and the west were repulsed by antiaircraft units and the fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

CONTROL GAINED OVER 3 IRAQI BORDER POSTS

GF081716 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 8 Nov 82

[Text] Karbala' HQ, Nov 8, IRNA -- According to latest reports the Islamic forces have gained control of three Iraqi border posts of Abu Gharib, (Sharqani), and Zubaydah.

Yesterday the Islamic forces penetrated some 10 kms in Iraqi territory in the Moharram operational region and took at least 1,600 Iraqi soldiers captive while hundreds of enemy tanks, personnel carriers and vehicles were either seized or destroyed by the Iranian Muslim combatants.

IRNA REPORTS IRAQIS' SHELLING OF ABADAN 7 NOV

GF081738 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 8 Nov 82

[Text] Ahvaz, Nov 8, IRNA -- The Iraqi artillery barrages devastated five residential units and caused fires in six sectors in Abadan over the 24 hours preceding Monday.

Also, during this same time, the fire of the Iranian defenders immediately repulsed all aggressor Iraqi planes which attempted to bomb Abadan's residential quarters seven times.

Meanwhile, at least 17 Iraqis were killed and five others wounded as the Iranian forces barraged the enemy's positions inside Iraq, beyond the Arvand River, and checked all activities and movements of the Ba'thists.

In these operations, the Iraqi vehicles movements on the Faw-Basra route were halted while one enemy's fuel tank, two group bunkers and one dug-out were set ablaze.

TROOPS 'ESTABLISHED' 10 KM INSIDE IRAQ

LD091102 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Nov 82

[Text] Following the recent victories of the combatants of Islam in the Moharram operations, the soldiers of Islam severely crushed the futile counteroffensive launched this morning by the enemy 10 km inside Iraq and inflicted heavy casualties and damage on the aggressive enemy. Our forces presently have established themselves in their positions 10 km inside Iraqi territory. The results of the victorious operations by the combatants of Islam will be brought to your attention as soon as available.

FIRST GROUP OF IRAQI POW'S ARRIVES IN TEHRAN

LD081034 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 8 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov 8 IRNA -- The first group of Iraqi POWs who were taken captive during the Moharram offensive arrived here by train this morning and were greeted by the Muslim people at the railway station.

The group numbering some 750 are from more than 3,400 Iraqi POWs so far transferred behind the battle fronts, west of 'Eyn-e Khosh in Khuzestan Province.

The train arrived at 08:30 hours and were [as received] directly taken to pre-arranged destinations by military buses.

ENGINEERS', OTHERS' PRESENCE ON FRONTS REQUESTED

LD071604 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Statement issued by commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the commander of the Ground Forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

In thanking the beloved nation for its unprecedented response to the decree of the imam of the umma', may his shadow never grow less, regarding the departure of people to the fronts, we draw the attention of the honorable state officials and others to some of the priorities and needs of the war and also for the war support and behind-the-front activities:

1. Since activities behind the front, including mobilizing people and help in supply and support of the fronts are of particular importance, honorable state officials, Majlis deputies, governors general, governors and officials of revolutionary institutions and organizations are requested first to take charge of the aforesaid matters and to note that desirable administration of the war depends to a large extent on this matter.
2. Those who have had military training or have been dispatched to the fronts before and also those who are familiar with or expert in engineering affairs and machinery repairs, through coordination with the Revolution Guards Corps throughout the country, are required to be present on the fronts to cooperate fully with the armed forces, to help the combatants of Islam and to get rid of the blasphemous Saddamists as soon as possible.
3. Those who must necessarily remain in state offices, organizations and institutions in the judgment of the officials of institutions, organizations and ministries, are required to remain so that with the cooperation of officials taking priorities into account, a proper decision can be made concerning their dispatch to the fronts.

In conclusion, it should be noted that in the case of need or other priorities, the matter will be brought to the attention of the martyr-nurturing umam'.

We beg God Almighty for honor and glory for Islam.

[Signed] Colonel Sayyad-Shirazi, commander of the Ground Forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Mohsen Reza'i, commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

RETURNEES FROM KUWAIT DESCRIBE 'TORTURE'

LD051320 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Nov 82

[Text] Eight Iranian brothers resident in Kuwait, arrested during the savage attack by that country's police during the mourning ceremonies of Husayn's 'Ashura, after 1 week of assault, battery and torture in Kuwait's prisons were expelled from that country and arrived in Tehran yesterday afternoon. These brothers on whose bodies the signs of torture and burning are visible, explained in an interview with IRNA how they were arrested by the Kuwaiti police.

One of them who received head injuries said: We were busy taking part in the mourning ceremonies and beating our chests in the mosque when the Kuwaiti police attacked us with tear gas and batons on the excuse that we were saying "God is great." As they beat and injured the mourners, they arrested a large number of them. He added: It is likely that as a result of this savage attack by the Kuwaiti police several mourners may have lost their lives.

Another brother, referring to the unseemly behavior of Kuwaiti officials toward those who had been arrested and who had been placed in solitary confinement, said: After 6 days starvation without even a piece of bread or water they took us for so-called interrogation. By burning our hands with cigarettes and bursting my ear, they tried to force me to confess that we had been sent by the Iranian Embassy. He added: The Kuwaiti officials kept asking as they tortured us: Why were you chanting "God is great"; why were you chanting political slogans; why do you mention the name of Imam Khomeyni in Kuwait and take part in politics; why do you chant the slogans of "Death to America" and "Death to Saddam"; why do you say that you are not frightened of guns and tanks; why should Iran continue the war?

Another laborer brother resident in Kuwait, who was arrested when the wounded were being taken to the hospital, said: One of the interrogators was an Iranian counterrevolutionary who seemed to be employed by the Kuwaiti Government. He added: Some of the Kuwaiti officials are truly in favor of the Islamic revolution of Iran and refrained from hurting and torturing us. It should be said that on the whole the people of Kuwait are with us and support the Islamic revolution.

According to this report, more than 150 of the people arrested during the mourning ceremonies on Husayn's 'Ashura in Kuwait are at the moment in detention in that country.

VELAYATI RECEIVES AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR 7 NOV

LD072132 Tehran IRNA in English 1920 GMT 7 Nov 82

["Iran To Support Austria's U.N. Disarmament Proposal" -- IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA -- The Austrian ambassador to Tehran, Johann Plattner, in a meeting with the Iranian foreign affairs minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, this morning, presented a letter of the Austrian foreign minister calling on his Iranian counterpart to support the Austrian proposal at the United Nations on the issue of disarmament.

Velayati told the Austrian diplomat that Iran pursued a policy of independence and, therefore, preferred relations with independent countries, and Austria was one of these countries. The foreign affairs minister further added that the Islamic Republic was one of the strongest countries of the region and through reliance on its masses, it has been able to thwart all domestic and foreign plots.

Referring to the economic situation of the country Velayati said that a good deal of progress has been made and despite all the difficulties caused by the 25 month old Iraqi imposed war, Iran has not asked for any foreign loan. In addition to this, he added, Iran has repaid loans owed by the former regime. Concluding, Velayati stressed that the Islamic Republic was interested in developing its relations with any country which understood and respected its stances.

COMMITTEES UNCOVER 'HYPOCRITES' MILITARY NETWORK

LD071238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Excerpts] The Cabinet held a session last night chaired by Prime Minister Musavi.

[Interior Minister] Nateq-Nuri submitted a report on the activities of the Islamic revolution committees. He said: A hypocrites military network was uncovered in Tehran by the brothers in the committees. Several hypocrites including members of the hypocrites council were arrested.

The foreign minister then informed the Cabinet that five high-ranking delegations will be sent to five friendly countries for discussions on neutralizing secret imperialist moves that have been stepped up following the recent victories achieved by the forces of Islam.

'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES' ATTACKED IN BUKAN

LD081738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Nov 82

[Excerpt] Reports received from the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada base say that as the fighters of the decaying and feeble body of the counterrevolutionaries continue to deliver blows in the western part of the country, the defenders of the Islamic revolution in some surprise and coordinated operations in (Hamaniyan) village in Bukan district yesterday attacked a vehicle carrying counterrevolutionaries, resulting in the deaths or injuries of some 20 armed assailants affiliated with the American-supported counterrevolutionary minigroups. In these operations, several weapons including two Kalashnikovs and ammunition and a radio were seized by the Islamic combatants. The vehicle carrying the armed counterrevolutionaries sustained heavy damage.

SUNNI LEADER DESCRIBES KURDS' STRUGGLE

PM051127 Paris LE MONDE in French 3 Nov 82 p 3

[Paul Balta report]

[Text] On a brief visit to Paris, Sheykh Ezzedin Hoseyni, 61-year-old Sunni spiritual leader of the Iranian Kurds, informed us of his deep concern over the situation in Iranian Kordestan which he has left for the first time in his life.

"Since mid-September," he said, "the Islamic forces have launched an offensive on all sides, which is the most powerful we have suffered since the attack on Sanandaj in the spring of 1979. The regime is using aircraft and helicopters to bomb us and is also using chemical weapons. It is not only attacking the peshmerga (fighters) in their underground haunts but also the civilian populations in the villages and is imposing a severe economic blockade."

According to Sheykh Hoseyni, the Tehran forces comprise four divisions, the 128th in Sanandaj, the 64th in Urumiyeh and two others in Tabriz and Qazvin, not to mention the pasdaran (revolution guards) and volunteers. The offensive is being organized by Col Sayyad-Shirazi who in the past had been responsible for coordination between the pasdaran and the military in western Iran.

Sheykh Hoseyni asserted that in September alone around 2,500 government forces were killed and wounded. However, he admitted that the Kurdish resistance fighters gradually have lost control of the big cities although they still hold 90 percent of the rural and mountainous districts. He also admitted that the Islamic forces have succeeded in seizing half of the strategic road linking Piranshahr to Sar Dasht, some 20 km from the Iraqi border, and that they have occupied the villages of Mirabad (Miraveh in Kurdish) and (Rabat) near Sar Dasht.

According to Sheykh Hoseyni, the Tehran forces have a threefold objective: to try to cut off the Kurds from the border with Iraq and Turkey, to isolate the peshmerga and, if possible, to launch an offensive against Iraq from Kordestan. He specified that the underground fighters have halted the government forces' advance but he reported fierce fighting.

On the basis of the latest information to reach him, he reported an attack by the Islamic forces on 15 and 16 September against Miandow Ab, following which the mullah of the village of Khata'i was murdered, and two clashes on 20 October at (Zegdraou), around 10 km from Mahabad and on 22 October near Divandarreh.

Agreement Between Autonomous Parties

Sheykh Hoseyni welcomed the fact that the two main political forces -- the Kordestan Democratic Party, which has a long history behind it and is led by Mr Qasemlu, and the Komala (a party which follows Marxism-Leninism) created in the '70's and led by Mr (Abdullah Mohatadi) -- reached an agreement on 20 October under pressure from events and from the population. They decided to set up military coordination between their forces and set up a joint headquarters in the Sar Dasht region. He stressed that, despite their doctrinal differences, the two parties agree on two fundamental points: the need to overthrow Imam Khomeyni's regime and to secure autonomy for Kordestan.

He said the military offensive is accompanied by a "purification" campaign among teachers and by the "deportation of civilians." "A policy of assimilation and conversion has been pursued intensively since the start of the new school year on 23 September. Kurdish teachers are being replaced by Persian pasdaran and volunteers and Kurds are being deported to non-Kurdish and non-Sunni regions. Some 100 families from Sanandaj, 50 families from Saqqez and 20 from Mahabad, accused of aiding underground fighters, have been exiled in that way," Sheykh Hoseyni stated, recalling that a Kurdish family comprises 10 to 15 people, sometimes more.

Following Tehran radio's call for the rebels to lay down their arms and "return to the fold of Islam while there is still time," Sheykh Hoseyni, who advocates the separation of religion and state, condemned Tehran's intention to convert the Kurds to Shi'a.

He bitterly concluded: "Khomeyni is still in power because the opposition movements are divided." He admitted there are "differences of opinion" between the Kurds and the National Resistance Council led by Mojahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi and former President Bani-Sadr in Auvers-Sur-Oise, but he said that "friendship and areas of agreement" exist between them. Finally, he said he intends to return to Kordestan soon to pursue the struggle.